

War in Vietnam - again a series of bloody skirmishes today; in the streets of Saigon - in and around the old walled section of Hue - on the barbed-wire fringes of the U.S. Marine outpost at Khe Sanh - up near the D.M.Z.

The capital itself - scene of some of the worst fighting. Allied headquarters reporting "contacts" tonight - throughout the city; with roving bands of terrorists - attempting to perpetuate the chaos of the past few days. Latest targets including two police stations - also a key power station; under attack by Viet Cong demolition experts.

Here at home though - a grim reminder that Khe Sanh may yet prove the enemy's main objective. This at least the assumption of General Earle Wheeler - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; who told a Senate committee today - that all military preparations have been taken to defend Khe Sanh. He added: "We do not plan to sustain a Dien Bien Phu."

SEOUL - TOKYO

Throughout the day - a series of persistent reports - from Seoul, from Tokyo, telling of a supposed agreement between the United States and North Korea - for release of the entire crew of the captured U.S. intelligence ship - the Pueblo. This said to be conditioned on a U.S. admission - that the Pueblo really was captured in North Korean waters.

The U.S. State Department took note of the situation. A State Department spokesman revealing there had been - a third secret meeting at Panmunjom - between U.S. and North Korean officials. But up to now - said he - no "breakthrough or settlement" is yet in sight; and "no foundation" - for any stories to the contrary.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

With the Lowell Thomas currently at Grenoble, France

**- awaiting the opening of the Winter Olympics - another
special taped report tonight. Reflections of a round-the-world
skier - on transAtlantic flight Number One Thousand-and-One.
Lowell.....**

ANDES-AVALANCHE STORY - ATWATER

Hello Dallas, Good Evening Everybody:

Now what does a skier do when he is flying the Atlantic, on his way to the Winter Olympics? Many go by special plane, packed with skiers. I made it the usual way with Hack Miller, well-known Utah sports editor. He writing a column as we flew, I reading an exciting novel - about skiing - skiing on the slope of the highest mountain of South America, Aconcagua; written by Monty Atwater, a top American expert on avalanches. Monty goes around the world giving advice on how to cope with that avalanche problem.

His novel is about a struggle between Russian Communists, and our own mining engineers, in the Andes to see who will win a race to open up a mountain of copper worth a billion dollars. Of course, it includes attractive blondes, a handsome rich South American, Russians. The

ANDES-AVALANCHE-ATWATER - 2

Climax of the novel comes when the Russians are about to start a revolution. They send a thousand armed men, from a secret hiding place in the Andes and the American avalanche expert saves the day. He doesn't wipe out the Russians, he merely starts an avalanche and traps them in a canyon.

Quite a story, another reminder of the drama that is around us all the time, especially here in the Alps where I am now. Only a few days ago, in the news, we had the story of the avalanche at Davos in Switzerland, where more than a score were killed.

And by the way - if any of you are going skiing where the mountains are really big, don't fail to heed the warning sent out by our snow rangers. Solong.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE

Lowell - we'll be sure to keep that advice in mind.

Plan for business tourists. Combining the President's proposed travel restrictions - for easing the dollar-draft.

As explained by Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler - the principal ingredient calling for a tax of fifteen per cent on all spending in excess of seven dollars a day - outside the Western Hemisphere. The planned tax jumping to thirty per cent - on all spending in excess of fifteen dollars a day.

Not only that - the American tourist would also have to estimate in advance - and pay in advance - his projected tax on such a trip. If the final bill should later exceed his estimate - the rest would be payable within sixty days of his return home.

HOUSE FOLLOW CONGRESS

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Another special message to Congress today. President Johnson's omnibus education program - including a call for elimination of all economic and racial barriers to a college education.

The President also calling for passage of a - "Networks for Knowledge Act;" to spur colleges and universities - toward the pooling of faculties, equipment and various facilities. In the field of elementary and secondary education - the President urging more and improved Funding of Aid programs; specially set up well in advance of the school year - to allow for better planning by local authorities.

Now a word from Warren Moran

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW HOUSE

SÃO PAULO

President Johnson today formally accepted a bust of Adlai Stevenson - who would have been sixty-eight years old today had he lived.

In brief remarks - the President praising both Stevenson and the United Nations in which he served. "Adlai Stevenson was proof" - said he - "that an egg-head can be both soft-hearted and hard-boiled." As for the U.N. - the President saying "if we have been sometimes disappointed - briefly. When the world organization has failed" - he went on - "it has failed only at tasks where other instrument of man has succeeded."

Now a word from Warren Moran.

Good night.

SAO PAULO

From Sao Paulo, Brazil - proof again that time waits for no man; in the sad story of Gino Meneghetti - a famous "cat burglar" of the Twenties and Thirties; out to make a comeback this past weekend - when he tripped and fell - while trying to crawl through an apartment window..

So much noise - he woke the occupant. Gino Meneghetti soon finding himself back behind bars - but only briefly. Police telling the old-timer he could go home - if he agreed to "hang up" his burglar tools, once and for all.

At age ninety - Gino Meneghetti was compelled to agree; he's not the cat - he used to be.

Good night.